

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

Carbla Station, 13 miles north-north-east of
Hamelin Pool, Western Australia.Height a.m.s.l. (ft)
40 feetDate
23.3.70Time (Local)
0800Zone
WST

2. THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Piper PA 18/150	Registration VH-PYK	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 20.5.68	Valid to 19.5.77
Registered Owner Murchison Air Services Pty. Ltd., Perth Airport, Guildford, Western Australia.	Operator Murchison Air Services Pty. Ltd., Perth Airport, Guildford, Western Australia	Degree of damage to aircraft Substantial Other property damaged Nil		

Defects discovered

Fuel vent line connecting front header tank to left wing tank blocked.

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Carbla Station	Time of departure 0600	Next point of intended landing Point of Departure	Purpose of flight Aerial Mustering	Class of operation Aerial Work
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4. THE CREW

Name Owen James Coverdale BRADBURY	Status Pilot	Age 35	Class of licence Commercial	Hours on type 102	Total hours 1500	Degree of injury Nil
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5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS

Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention

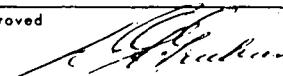
RELEVANT EVENTS

The aircraft took off from Carbla Station at 0600 for the purpose of mustering sheep about 5 miles west of the strip. At about 0800, with the left fuel tank selected and while turning right at a height of approximately 50 feet above the ground, the engine lost all power. The pilot levelled the aircraft and being unable to restore engine power, lowered full flap and carried out a forced landing straight ahead on lightly timbered level ground. Soon after touch down both main wheels struck tree roots and the aircraft overturned.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that following a loss of power the pilot was compelled to land on unsuitable terrain. The probable cause of the loss of power was fuel starvation as a result of the fuel outlet in the left wing tank being uncovered during a skidding right turn and fuel not being available from the associated header tank because its vent line was blocked.

Report approved

 (D.S. GRAHAM)Designation
Assistant Director-General
(Air Safety Investigation)Date
30.12.71

DEFINITIONS

ACCIDENT - An occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all those persons have disembarked and in which

- (a) any person suffers death or serious injury as a result of being in or upon the aircraft or by direct contact with the aircraft or anything attached to the aircraft; or
- (b) the aircraft suffers substantial damage.

FATAL INJURY - Any injury which results in death within 30 days.

SERIOUS INJURY - Any injury other than a fatal injury which

- (a) requires hospitalisation for more than 48 hours, commencing within seven days from the date the injury was received; or
- (b) results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of fingers, toes or nose); or
- (c) involves lacerations which cause severe haemorrhages, nerve, muscle or tendon damage; or
- (d) involves injury to any internal organ; or
- (e) involves second or third degree burns, or any burns affecting more than five percent of the body surface.

MINOR INJURY - Any injury other than as defined under "Fatal Injury" or "Serious Injury".

DESTROYED - Consumed by fire, demolished or damaged beyond repair.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE - Damage or structural failure which adversely affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft and which would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component. The following types of damage are specifically excluded: engine failure, damage limited to an engine, bent fairings or cowling, dented skin, small punctured holes in the skin or fabric, taxi-ing damage to propeller blades, damage to tyres, engine accessories, brakes, or wingtips.

MINOR DAMAGE - Damage other than as defined under "Destroyed" or "Substantial Damage".